



Final Scoping Summary Report

**Environmental Impact Statement
for the Shiloh Launch Complex,
Brevard and Volusia Counties, Florida**

**Federal Aviation Administration
Office of Commercial Space
Transportation**



May 2014

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Scoping is a fundamental part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Scoping not only informs the public about the Proposed Action and Alternatives but identifies issues and concerns that are of particular interest to affected communities. This scoping report summarizes the activities during, and the results of, the official public scoping period from December 26, 2013 to February 21, 2014 for the Shiloh Launch Complex Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Space Florida proposes to construct and operate a commercial space launch site (the “Shiloh Launch Complex”) and two off-site operations support areas. Space Florida would be required to apply to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for a Launch Site Operator License to operate the Shiloh Launch Complex. In addition, launch vehicle operators could submit license applications to the FAA for commercial launch vehicle operations at the Shiloh Launch Complex. The EIS will evaluate the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects that may result from the Proposed Action of constructing and operating a commercial space launch site, including all related activities and any actions considered connected to the Proposed Action. This scoping report presents the following:

- Provides an outline of the scoping process
- Describes the scoping meeting format and schedule
- Summarizes comments received during the scoping period
- Identifies major issues and concerns expressed in the comments received

2.0 SCOPING PROCESS

Scoping provides opportunities for the general public, government agencies, and interest groups to learn about the Purpose and Need and Proposed Action and Alternatives, suggest alternative approaches to meet the need, and provide input on the proposed project. Public input is used to assist resource specialists in data collection and resource analysis during development of the draft EIS. Public involvement planning materials were prepared to define how the scoping process would be performed, describe the purpose and objectives of scoping, and provide organizational direction (meeting format and activities). These planning materials also identified assigned roles and responsibilities of the applicant (Space Florida), lead agency (FAA), and cooperating agencies; presented scoping support materials (e.g., mailing list of project stakeholders, meeting handouts, comment forms, and newspaper advertisements); and meeting dates and locations.

Official notification of the FAA’s Proposed Action began with the publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) on December 26, 2013 in the *Federal Register* (Appendix A). Advertisements were placed in the following newspapers a week before the scoping meeting (Table 1): Florida Today, Orlando Sentinel, and Daytona Beach News-Journal (Appendix B). The advertisements summarized the Proposed Action;



provided the time, date, and location of the scoping meeting; and described the ways to submit scoping comments.

The newspapers selected service the potentially affected communities around the Proposed Action. Each newspaper determined the placement of the paid notices.

Table 1. Scoping Meeting Notice - Publication Dates for Newspapers

Newspaper	Dates	Page Number
Florida Today	February 2, 2014	14A
Orlando Sentinel	February 3, 2014	B6
Daytona Beach News-Journal	February 2, 2014	2B

The FAA also e-mailed a scoping notification letter to individuals; Federal, State, and local agencies; elected officials; and various interest groups that would likely have constituents interested in the Proposed Action and scoping (see Appendix C). In addition, the FAA mailed scoping notification letters to the following American Indian tribes: Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Poarch Band of Creeks, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, and Seminole Tribe of Florida.

3.0 SCOPING MEETING

3.1 SCHEDULE AND LOCATION

The FAA held two public scoping meetings at locations convenient to the public in New Smyrna Beach FL, and Titusville FL. The schedule and locations of these meetings is provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Scoping Meeting Schedule and Locations

Scheduled Date/Time	Venue Name	Venue Address
Tuesday, February 11, 2014 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm*	New Smyrna Beach High School Gymnasium	1015 10th Street New Smyrna Beach, Florida 32168
Wednesday, February 12, 2014 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm*	Eastern Florida State College Titusville Campus John Henry Jones Gymnasium	1311 North U.S. 1 Titusville, Florida 32796

Note: *Meetings were extended to 8:30 pm to accommodate additional public comments.

3.2 FORMAT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MATERIALS

The meeting format and public involvement materials were designed to enhance the public's understanding of the NEPA process while emphasizing the public's role in shaping the Proposed Action and Alternatives. Scoping meetings were conducted in an "open house" format to create a comfortable atmosphere for attendees – one in which they could speak individually with FAA and Space Florida representatives. During the scoping meeting, FAA and Space Florida project team representatives (i.e., FAA personnel, civilian FAA staff, and support contractors) were available to explain the proposed project and alternatives, answer questions about the project, and describe the environmental impact

analysis process and related timeline. Poster displays located throughout the meeting room provided information on NEPA and Areas of Analysis, Proposed Action and Alternatives, Licensing and Permitting Process, Agency Coordination, Space Florida information, and the Public Involvement Process. In addition, cooperating agencies had poster displays to explain their role in the EIS process. The open house was followed by a public comment portion.



Meeting attendees were welcomed at the entrance and asked to sign scoping meeting sign-in sheets. Members of the public who wished to speak during the public comment portion were offered a letter card on a first come-first serve basis. Scoping Factsheet Booklets with additional project information were handed out to meeting participants. Comment forms provided to those attending the scoping meetings were designed to either be filled out and submitted at the scoping meeting comment table or filled out later and mailed to the FAA. Additionally, a stenographer was present to record oral comments.

3.3 ATTENDANCE

Table 3 outlines the number of attendees and comments received at each meeting. A total of 773 individuals signed in at the meetings, which yielded 85 written comments and 108 oral comments during the public meeting.

Table 3. Scoping Meetings Comment Summary

Scoping Location	Attendees ¹	Written Comments	Oral Comments	Total Comments
New Smyrna Beach High School	445	58	60	115
Eastern Florida State College	328	27	48	75

Note: ¹ These numbers account for the people who signed in at the meetings.

At the meeting, attendees included representatives of Federal and State elected officials, city government agencies, elected officials, and local community planning groups (Table 4).

Table 4. Elected Officials, Agencies, and Community Groups at Scoping Meetings

Attendee	Affiliation
Naomi Weiss	on behalf of Congressman Ron DeSantis
Hilda Quintero	on behalf of State Representative David Santiago
Deborah Denys	Volusia County Council District 3 Representative
John Wagner	Volusia County Historic Preservation Board Member
Doug Gibson	Mayor of Oak Hill
Ron Engele	City of Oak Hill Commissioner

Attendee	Affiliation
Gene Emter	City of Edgewater District 4 Councilman
Daniel Hunt	City of DeBary Council Member
Fred Lowry	Deltona City Commissioner
Joe Perez	Former City of Deltona Commissioner
Marcia Newell	on behalf of Brevard County District 4 Commissioner Mary Bolin Lewis
Jim Tulley Jr.	Mayor of Titusville
Martha Long	City of Titusville Council Member
Kathleen Burson	City of Titusville Council Member
Rita Pritchett	City of Titusville Council Member
Mary E. Hillberg	North Merritt Island Dependent Special District Representative for Group 1
J.B. Kump	Chairman for the Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce
John H. Evans	Port Canaveral Port Authority Commissioner

3.4 MEDIA

The scoping meeting at New Smyrna Beach attracted eight attendees from six media organizations. The scoping meeting at Titusville attracted nine attendees from five media organizations. Table 5 outlines the media organizations present at the scoping meetings.



Table 5. Media Attendees at Scoping Meetings

TV	Print Media
New Smyrna Beach High School, Tuesday, February 11, 2014	
FOX 35 News Orlando WOFL	Florida Today
	Hometown News
	Daytona Beach News-Journal
	NSB Observer
	Reuters Space News
Eastern Florida State College, Wednesday, February 12, 2014	
NBC Orlando WESH	Florida Today
	Daytona Beach News-Journal
	Syndicated News
	Zero G News

4.0 SCOPING COMMENTS

The public was invited to comment on the Proposed Action prior to, as well as during and after, the scoping meetings. All public comments have been compiled in an internal database for FAA's reference.

4.1 METHODS

Overall, there were a total of 4,340 comments, resolutions, and petitions received during the public scoping period from December 26, 2013 to February 21, 2014. Several of these 4,340 comments were received after the scoping period ended. All comments have been compiled in an internal database. There were six methods to provide comments:

- Provide written comments during the meeting
- Provide comments orally to stenographer during the meeting
- Submit comments electronically to faashiloheis@cardnotec.com or regulations.gov
- Submit comments to FAA's website
- Fax comments to (434) 295-5535
- Mail written comments, postmarked by February 21, 2014 to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Shiloh EIS, c/o Cardno TEC, Inc., 2496 Old Ivy Road – Suite 300, Charlottesville, VA 22903

Table 6 summarizes the method by which each of the 4,340 comments were received during the scoping period from December 26, 2013 to February 21, 2014, as well as comments received after the scoping period ended. Of the 4,340 comments received, a total of 3,396 were form letters.

Table 6. Comment Method

Method of Comment Submittal	Number of Comments Received
Written Comments at Scoping Meetings	84
Oral Comments at Scoping Meetings	108
Electronic	3,944
FAA Website	107
Faxed	7
Mailed	90
Total	4,340

4.2 COMMENTS AND ISSUES ANALYSIS

As part of the scoping process 4,181 comments were received that expressed general opposition to the Proposed Action. Concerns raised by these commenters included:

- Disturbance of habitat within the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (MINWR) and Canaveral National Seashore
- Impacts to threatened and endangered species
- Development of Florida's coastal habitat compounding the effects of climate change
- Closure of State Road 3 (SR 3), US Highway 1 and Interstate 95
- Limited access to the MINWR

- Impacts to nearby cultural resources
- Increases in noise and ground vibrations
- Decrease in the eco-tourism in the area affecting fishing charters, boating guides, and other local commerce that relies on this industry due to potential temporary closure of the Intracoastal Waterway and Mosquito Lagoon for launches
- Boating restrictions due to potential temporary closure of the Intracoastal Waterway and Mosquito Lagoon for launches
- Water quality impacts to Mosquito Lagoon and Indian River Lagoon
- Evaluate the use of existing sites within Cape Canaveral Air Force Station (CCAFS) and Kennedy Space Center (KSC) as alternatives
- Avoidance of “red tape” through Federal reservation seen as a safety and security risk
- Impacts of failed launches

As part of the scoping process, 88 comments were received that expressed general support for the Proposed Action. Points raised by these commenters included:

- Strengthen the local economy
- Benefits of commercial launches – shorter turnaround times than government operations
- Land originally designated to support launches
- Increased tax base
- Creation of jobs

4.2.1 WRITTEN COMMENTS AT MEETINGS

Eighty-four written comments, including signed petitions and resolutions, were received at the scoping meetings.

Of the 84 comments, 25 of these comments were pre-prepared and 59 were written on comment forms provided at the meetings. The majority of the comments expressed opposition towards the Proposed Action.



4.2.2 ORAL COMMENTS

During each public scoping meeting, participants who signed up were allowed to offer a 3-minute statement. Attendees also had a chance to speak to the stenographer during the open house and after the meeting. The stenographer captured these oral comments verbatim. The meeting on February 11, 2014 at the New Smyrna Beach High School yielded 60 oral comments. The meeting on February 12, 2014 at the Eastern Florida State College yielded 48 oral comments. Most comments expressed opposition for the Proposed Action.

4.2.3 ELECTRONIC, FAA WEBSITE, AND FAXED COMMENTS

A total of 4,340 comments from the public were provided via email and Regulations.gov, and 107 comments were provided through the FAA website. A total of 7 comments from the public were provided via fax.

4.2.4 MAILED COMMENTS

A total of 90 letters were received. Mailed comments were primarily in opposition of the Proposed Action. A petition from Defenders of Wildlife included a CD with an excel spreadsheet containing 37,234 signatures in support of protecting MINWR and against the Proposed Action.

4.4 PUBLIC MAILING LIST

In addition to providing comments during the scoping period, the public, government agencies and interest groups were encouraged to continue their participation by requesting that their contact information be added to the project mailing list on sign-in sheets, comment forms, and the FAA website. In all, approximately 82 commenters requested to be added to the mailing list. Everyone who signed in or commented and provided contact information will be added to the mailing list (unless they specifically asked not to be contacted).

5.0 CONCLUSION

The FAA provided the public with extensive notification of the Proposed Action and scoping process. Opportunities to comment through various means were provided and two meetings were held in locations to afford the public access to information on the Proposed Action and provided an opportunity to express any concerns or issues with the Proposed Action. Attendance at the scoping meetings and comments submitted support these concerns.

Overall, the majority of the comments received expressed general opposition of the Proposed Action.



Appendix A

Notice of Intent

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Appendix B

Newspaper Advertisements

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Appendix C

Scoping Notification Letters

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